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LETTER DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 3 November 1998, which I have received from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

98-33660 (E) 041198

Annex

Letter dated 3 November 1998 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the Security Council request for the International Atomic Energy Agency to provide a briefing on the implications of Iraq's decision of 31 October 1998 to stop all forms of interaction with the United Nations Special Commission, I would be grateful if you could arrange to transmit the attached letter to the President of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed ELBARADEI

Appendix

Letter dated 3 November 1998 from the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency addressed to the President of the Security Council

At the emergency session of the Security Council held on 31 October 1998, the Council indicated its intention to ask the Secretary-General, inter alia, to arrange for briefings by the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the implications of Iraq's 31 October decision to stop all forms of interaction with UNSCOM and to halt all its activities inside Iraq, including monitoring activities.

In that context, I can report that so far IAEA has been able to continue its schedule of monitoring inspections. The IAEA Nuclear Monitoring Group in Iraq currently totals nine persons, comprising six nationalities. The basic routine activities of the Group involve carrying out up to two monitoring inspections per day as well as up to two land-based radiation surveys. In addition, it is planned that the Group will carry out a campaign of wide-area environmental sample collection.

IAEA is able to carry out the technical aspects of its monitoring inspections independently but, in the context of the assistance and cooperation called for in paragraph 13 of resolution 687 (1991), IAEA relies upon UNSCOM for logistical services and facilities in Iraq, which continue to be provided in such areas as:

- Air transport between Bahrain and Baghdad;
- Air transport within Iraq (helicopter);
- Office and laboratory accommodation, including secure areas;
- Communications, including audio/video network;
- Road vehicles and maintenance services;
- Maintenance of joint-use video surveillance systems;
- Installation of in-field environmental monitoring equipment;
- Miscellaneous domestic services.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the ongoing monitoring and verification activities of IAEA are dependent upon the continuing availability of such assistance and cooperation.

It will be recalled that, as recorded in my October progress report to the Council (S/1998/927), the IAEA activities in Iraq continue to be limited by Iraq's decision on 5 August 1998 to restrict its cooperation with IAEA. Again, as recorded in that report, the inability of IAEA to exercise its right to full

and free access under its ongoing monitoring and verification plan has resulted in a significant reduction in the level of assurance that can be provided by that plan.

Subject to further guidance by the Security Council, IAEA is continuing with the limited implementation of its ongoing monitoring and verification plan and remains ready to provide such additional information or clarification as may be requested by the Council.

(Signed) Mohamed ELBARADEI